

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1 (Currently Amended). A method for making a wound dressing including an absorbent core having proximal and distal surfaces, and a liquid impervious, vapor permeable backing layer extending over the distal surface of the absorbent core, the backing layer includes a portion defining at least one compliant element disassociated and outwardly extending from the distal surface of the absorbent core, said method comprising the steps of:

securing a border portion of the backing layer to a border portion of the absorbent core;

connecting a central portion of the backing layer to a central portion of the absorbent core; and

forming a compliant element by drawing a portion of the backing layer away from the absorbent core;

wherein the portion of the backing layer corresponding to the compliant element is drawn by a vacuum.

2 (Cancelled).

3 (Original). The method according to claim 2, further comprising the step of relieving the vacuum from the backing layer after the compliant element is formed.

4 (Original). The method according to claim 3, further comprising the step of injecting compressed air against the backing layer after the compliant element is formed.

Claims 5-14 (Cancelled).

15 (New). A method for making a wound dressing including an absorbent core having proximal and distal surfaces, and a liquid impervious, vapor permeable backing layer extending over the distal surface of the absorbent core, the backing layer includes a portion defining at least one compliant element disassociated and outwardly extending from the distal surface of the absorbent core, said method comprising the steps of:

securing a border portion of the backing layer to a border portion of the absorbent core;

connecting a central portion of the backing layer to a central portion of the absorbent core; and

forming a compliant element by drawing a portion of the backing layer away from the absorbent core;

wherein a platen configured with a predetermined profile corresponding to the compliant element and the border and central portions of the backing layer is employed to secure the backing layer to the absorbent core, the platen including at least one groove defining the form of the compliant element of the backing layer and selectively in communication with a vacuum.

16 (New). The method according to claim 15, further comprising the steps of:

drawing the backing layer against the platen prior to connecting the border and central portions of the backing layer to the absorbent core by pulling the portion of the backing layer corresponding to the compliant element into the at least one groove with a vacuum in communication therewith;

applying the platen with the backing layer carried thereon against the absorbent core, said platen being heated to a suitable temperature to secure the border portion of the backing layer to the absorbent core; and

removing the vacuum from the backing layer after the border portion of the backing layer is secured to the absorbent core.

17 (New). The method according to claim 15, wherein compressed air is exerted against the central portion of the backing layer to separate the platen therefrom.

18 (New). The method according to claim 15, wherein the at least one groove is in communication with at least one passageway in communication with compressed air.

19 (New). The method according to claim 18, further comprising the step of exerting compressed air via the at least one passageway against the compliant element.

20 (New). The method according to claim 15, wherein the platen includes a tapered profile corresponding to an end portion of the border portion adjacent the periphery of the absorbent core, said profile imparting a tapered edge to the wound dressing.

21 (New). The method according to claim 15, wherein the platen includes at least one recessed portion defined along the profile thereof.

22 (New). The method according to claim 21, wherein the at least one recessed portion is defined about a central axis of the platen.

23 (New). The method according to claim 22, wherein the platen includes at least two concentric recessed portions.

24 (New). A method for making a wound dressing including an absorbent core having proximal and distal surfaces, and a liquid impervious, vapor permeable backing layer extending over the distal surface of the absorbent core, the backing layer includes a portion defining at least one compliant element disassociated and outwardly extending from the distal surface of the absorbent core, said method comprising the steps of:

securing a border portion of the backing layer to a border portion of the absorbent core;

sealing peripheral edges of the absorbent core with the border portion of the backing layer;

connecting a central portion of the backing layer to a central portion of the absorbent core; and

forming a compliant element by drawing a portion of the backing layer away from the absorbent core.